

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Inventory Number: ~~HL-0004~~ CH-893

Address: 7520 St. Mary's Avenue, Charles County - in the vicinity of La Plata

Owner: McMillan, Roy B. and Imogene

Tax Parcel Number: 75 Tax Map Number: 44

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no    yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended    Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria    A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G X None

Is property located within a historic district?: X no    yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?: X no    yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

**Description of Property and Eligibility Determination** *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

7520 St. Mary's Avenue is two-stories in height and has a two-and-one-half-story wing to the east. The wood frame house is three bays wide and the wing is one bay wide. Both sections of the house are covered by a side gable roof. A three bay wide, one-story porch runs the full width of the main section of the house. The porch has a half-hipped roof supported by turned wood posts with decorative brackets.

Charles County's late 19th- and early 20th-century history is dominated by industrial and urban development. The greatest impact upon community growth came from the railroad. The completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B&P) mainline from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872 prompted local entrepreneurs to establish stores and other commercial facilities near the railroad stations. The B&P Railroad also made inland farms accessible, thus, increasing their value and revitalizing the practice of agriculture in Southern Maryland. La Plata station still stands at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street.

As La Plata grew, Charles County citizens lobbied to have the county seat moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata.

Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria:    A    B X C    D Consideration    A    B    C    D    E X F    G    None

[Signature]  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

10/27/99  
Date

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR Program

7/19/02  
Date

✓

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La Plata became the county seat of Charles County's government in 1895 and a new courthouse was erected in 1896.

Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments also contributed to La Plata's community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway, later expanded as part of U.S. 301, attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to the Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s.

Built circa 1900, this Queen Anne-style house is not eligible for the National Register. While it is typical of the residential development surrounding La Plata, this resource lacks significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.

WILSON JR.

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30N  
A  
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271

ELLI LAOLTH

LAWRENCE  
F. WU  
359/208  
19.63 A.  
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WILLIAM  
J. FERRIS  
472/78  
29.91A  
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LIMITS

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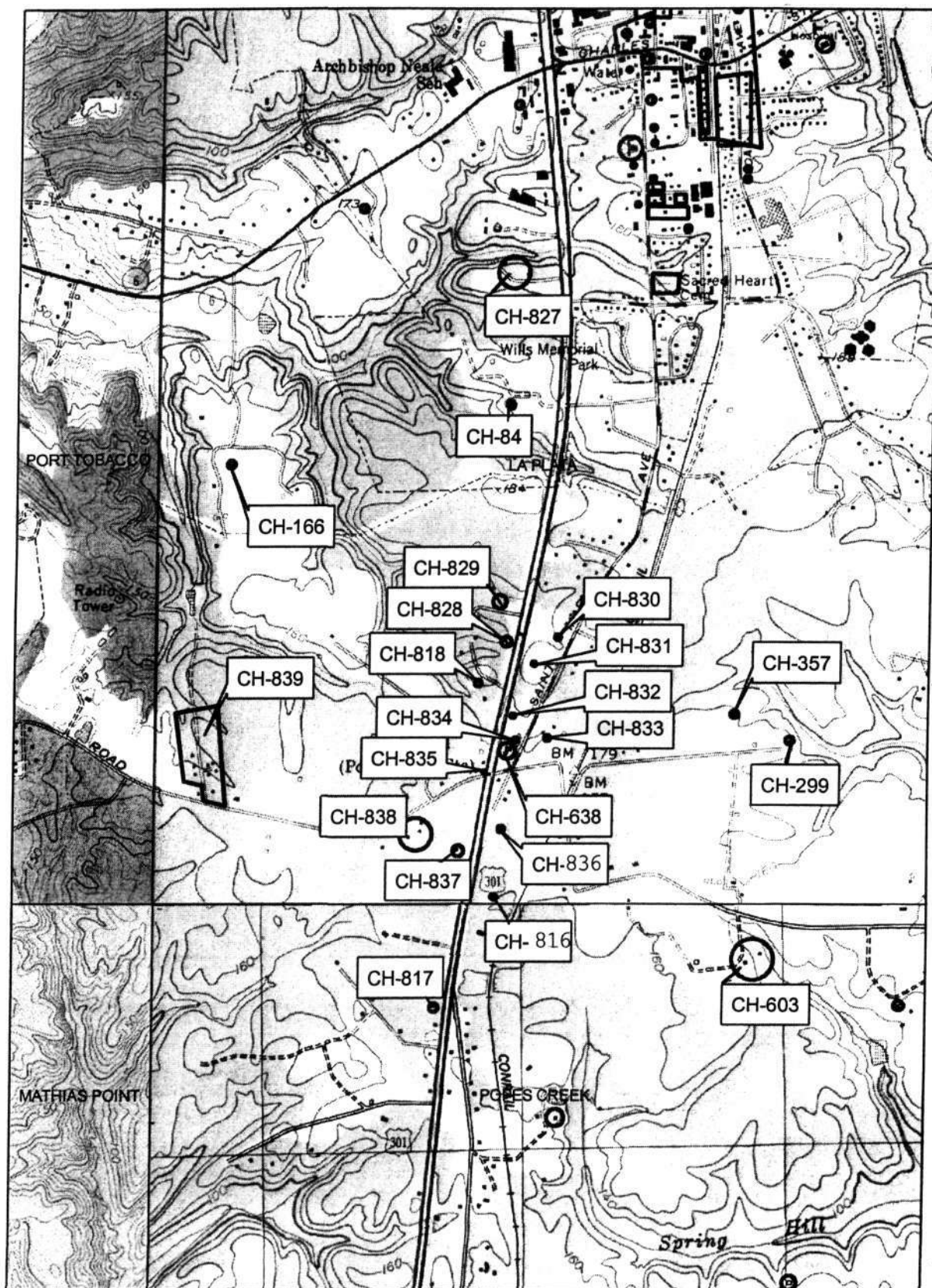
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~~#0004~~ CH-833

7520 St. Mary's Avenue

Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View of South Elevation

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